

clear the Chamber for the leadership to take up other matters which I know are pressing on their agenda.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for a period not to exceed 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, next week the Senate will be honored with a visit from the Right Honorable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia. Prime Minister Howard comes to the United States to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the signing ANZUS Treaty, the document that has formally tied our strategic destinies together for the good of the entire Asian Pacific Rim.

Our relationship with Australia did not begin with the ratification of one treaty. American and Australian soldiers have fought together on every battlefield of the world from the Meuse Argonne in 1918 to the Mekong Delta and Desert Storm. We share a common historic and cultural heritage. We are immigrant peoples forged from the British Empire. We conquered our continents and became a beacon of hope for people struggling to be free.

For over 100 years, the United States and Australia have been the foundation for stability in the South Pacific. Today, we are on the precipice of a new day in this vital region. The potential for economic growth there is staggering. Where our two countries provided the military basis for peace in that hemisphere, we now can set the stage for a new free market order that will open the frontiers of freedom for countless millions.

On September 5th, I sent a letter to President Bush asking that he accelerate the schedule for creating a free trade agreement with Australia. We are Australia's largest source of foreign investment and second largest trading partner with a two way trade totaling over \$19 billion. Even though Australia has a relatively small population, they are the 15th largest market for American exports.

An American Australia Free Trade Agreement will be a capstone event on a century of friendship and mutual sac-

rific. It has the potential for setting a new standard for all of the Pacific to follow. So we welcome Prime Minister Howard to the United States and look forward to another century of prosperity and peace.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my letter to President Bush dated September 5, 2001 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2001.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In recognition of the upcoming visit of Prime Minister John Howard, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our alliance with Australia, I believe that it is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the historic ties between our countries by launching the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

In addition to a military alliance that has borne fruit on battlefields from the Meuse Argonne to Vietnam, we share a common cultural and economic bond. The United States-Australia strategic partnership is the foundation for stability in the South Pacific. We are Australia's largest source of foreign investment and second largest trading partner and they are one of the top markets for American exports.

The United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement would be the first in a series of formal regimes designed to bring the fruits of the free market to the entire Asian Pacific rim. There is no better place to expand the new economic frontier than with our friends and allies in Australia.

Sincerely,

TRENT LOTT,
Republican Leader.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss embryonic stem cell research, having just participated in a hearing on stem cell research before the Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

The future of stem cells in the United States, indeed the world, poses one of the greatest challenges to our Government since the foundation of our Republic over 200 years ago.

Enormous pressures will be placed upon our Presidents. President Bush, at the threshold of this debate on new developments in medical research, has taken an important step forward. I commend the President for supporting some degree of Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. I also particularly commend the President for his efforts to ban human cloning.

Likewise, Congress must write laws striking a balance. On the one hand, ethical, moral, and religious standards give our Nation its strong foundation and must be considered.

On the other hand, we must allow science to go forward, within reason-

able bounds, to assess the ability of the new frontier of embryonic stem cell research to alleviate the human suffering being experienced by millions.

Like our executive and legislative branches of Government, our judiciary will also be faced with challenges. The judiciary must interpret, not re-write, the law of the land, as a flood of cases will come before the courts.

If the three branches of our Government fail, in the judgment of Americans, to discharge their respective responsibilities in a fair, objective way, there will be many adverse impacts upon the American people.

For example, this science will simply leave the U.S. laboratories and move off shore. The United States will no longer be a Nation that imports and keeps our best researchers; rather, we will become a Nation that exports our brain power in crucial fields. Americans seeking medical treatment will likewise go abroad.

Consequently, our Government is faced with challenges. But, to the extent we allow embryonic stem cell research at home, within a fair and balanced framework of regulations, we can better control the important ethical, moral and religious standards vital to our culture here in the United States.

America has accepted the awesome responsibility of being the only world superpower in areas of security, the preservation of freedom, and the fostering of the principles of democracy and human rights throughout the world. Are we as a Nation going to be a superpower in medical science, advocating ethical standards for others beyond our shores; or are we, as a Nation, going to retreat behind unrealistic, unenforceable barricades, and leave advancement in the science of this emerging field to the rest of the world?

The facts are that an overwhelming amount of evidence exists that indicates that stem cell research holds enormous potential for treatment, and ultimately cures, for many diseases such as Parkinson's disease, cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, heart disease, spinal chord injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, and diabetes.

Constantly, my Senate staff and I meet and hear from many Virginians who suffer from these and other diseases. And, many of these same individuals succumb to their disease, as no cure has yet been found for their illness. Embryonic stem cell research offers a real opportunity to help save lives in the future.

After thoughtful consideration, I came to the conclusion that the Federal Government, subject to restrictions, should fund embryonic stem cell research so that we remain a superpower in medical science. I joined with several of my colleagues in the Senate in writing to President Bush expressing

my support for Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research prior to the President's August 9th announcement. I ask unanimous consent that the letter to President Bush be printed in RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

The President,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We strongly urge you to continue the last Administration's policy of using Federal funds for research on human stem cells after these cells have been derived from embryos. In addition, we strongly urge you to support legislation which would remove the existing ban on the use of Federal funds to derive stem cells from embryos.

On the issue of stem cell research, we think our colleague, Senator Gordon Smith, went to the heart of the matter when he pointed out the difference between an embryo in a petri dish, which would not produce human life, as opposed to an embryo in the womb of a woman where further development would produce life.

The essential consideration is that there are many excess embryos created for the purpose of in vitro fertilization. The only issue is whether these embryo will be discarded or used for stem cell research to save lives. Stem cell research has demonstrated a remarkable capacity of these cells to transform into any type of cell in the human body. Stem cells could be transplanted to any part of the body to replace tissue that has been damaged by disease, injury or aging. If scientists are correct, stem cells could be used to treat and cure a multitude of maladies such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes, ALS, heart disease, spinal cord injury, all types of cancers, burns, stroke, macular degeneration, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, autoimmune diseases, hepatitis and arthritis.

Current law prohibits Federal funding to create human embryos for research purposes through cloning, or through any other means. We do not object to these important prohibitions. However, creating embryos for research purposes is entirely different from using spare embryos left-over from infertility treatments. These spare embryos are now destined to be thrown away. Rather than discarding them, we support using these embryos in medical research to treat and cure disease.

Sincerely,

Arleen Specter, Strom Thurmond, Lincoln D. Chafee, Olympia J. Snowe, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Gordon Smith, Susan Collins, Ted Stevens, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Orrin Hatch, and Dick Lugar.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 14, 1991 in Eugene, OR. Police arrested Pamela Joanne Richardson, 28, and Michael James Hughes, 21, for allegedly attacking a gay man outside a bar while using offensive language about his sexual orientation.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 4, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,761,532,655,812.62, five trillion, seven hundred sixty-one billion, five hundred thirty-two million, six hundred fifty-five thousand, eight hundred twelve dollars and sixty-two cents.

Five years ago, September 4, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,228,998,407,724.89, five trillion, two hundred twenty-eight billion, nine hundred ninety-eight million, four hundred seven thousand, seven hundred twenty-four dollars and eighty-nine cents.

Ten years ago, September 4, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,617,415,000,000, three trillion, six hundred seventeen billion, four hundred fifteen million.

Fifteen years ago, September 4, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,113,006,000,000, two trillion, one hundred thirteen billion, six million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$3,648,526,655,812.62, three trillion, six hundred forty-eight billion, five hundred twenty-six million, six hundred fifty-five thousand, eight hundred twelve dollars and sixty-two cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL KIDS VOTING WEEK

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Kids Voting USA and its efforts to educate our children about civic democracy and the importance of being an informed voter.

The program began in 1988 with three Arizona businessmen on a fishing trip to Costa Rica. They learned that voter turnout in that country was routinely about 80 percent. This high turnout was attributed to a tradition of children accompanying their parents to the polls. The men observed first-hand the success Costa Rica had achieved by instilling in children at an early age the importance of active participation and voting.

The three Arizona businessmen took this idea back to the United States and

founded Kids Voting USA. Today, this nonprofit, nonpartisan organization reaches 5 million students in 39 States, and includes 200,000 teachers, and 20,000 voter precincts.

With voter turnout declining each year, Kids Voting USA recognizes the need to educate our youth and instill in them the responsibility to be active, informed citizens and voters. By teaching the skills for democratic living year-round, students receive a civics education and participate in local and national elections in communities across the country. Kids Voting USA enables students to visit official polls on election day, accompanied by a parent or guardian, to cast a ballot that replicates the official ballot. Although not a part of the official results, the students' votes are registered at schools and by the media.

This year, National Kids Voting Week is September 24-28. It is a week when Kids Voting communities across the country celebrate this vibrant and important program. I would like to recognize Kids Voting USA and all its has done to promote the future of democracy by engaging young people, schools and communities in the election process.●

SAS INSTITUTE INC. CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I am proud to honor SAS Institute Inc. as it celebrates 25 years as a leading technology company. SAS is the world's largest privately held software company. The roots of SAS' software stem from a United States Department of Agriculture grant to a group of universities in need of a way to analyze their vast amounts of agricultural data. The group developed the "Statistical Analysis System", giving SAS both its name and its corporate beginnings.

Headquartered in Cary, NC, SAS has made significant contributions to communities throughout North Carolina. Fortunately, as it has grown over the last 25 years, SAS has extended its community involvement to include areas around the United States and the world. The company and its founders believe very strongly that education and technology are vitally important for our local communities, state, and country.

SAS' customer list have grown significantly over the past 25 years. SAS customers now include 98 of the "Fortune 100" companies. In addition, all fourteen major Federal Government departments currently use SAS software. SAS customers continually praise its software, as demonstrated by a 98-percent annual renewal rate.

For the past quarter century, SAS has annually reinvested at least 30 percent of its income into Research & Development, far exceeding the industry average. As a result of its commitment